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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/470,424 06/06/95 YOKOMIZO

22M2/0229

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EXAMINER
BEHREND, H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2204

DATE MAILED: 02/29/96

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on _____ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _____ month(s), 30 days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- ☐ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- ☒ Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
- ☐ Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
- ☐ _____

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. ☐ Claims _____ have been cancelled.

3. ☐ Claims _____ are allowed.

4. ☐ Claims _____ are rejected.

5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.

6. ☒ Claims 1-23 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. ☐ This application has been filed with Informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).

12. ☒ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☒ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Art Unit: 2204

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicant is required under 35 USC 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be patentable. Currently, claim 1 appears generic.

I. The embodiment wherein the resistance member is the fuel rod holding portion of the lower tie plate.

II. The embodiment wherein the resistance member is below the fuel rod holding portion of the lower tie plate and the water rod outlet is above the fuel rod holding portion of the lower tie plate (as in Fig. 25).

III. The embodiment wherein the resistance member is below the fuel rod holding portion of the lower tie plate and the water rod outlet is below the fuel rod holding portion of the lower tie plate (as in Fig. 32).

2. Upon election of one of the species identified above as I-III, applicant is further required under 35 USC 121 to elect one of the following disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable (currently, claim 1 appears generic):

A. The embodiment as illustrated in figure 1.

B. The embodiment as illustrated in figures 7A, 7B.

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- C. The embodiment of figure 18A.
- D. The embodiment of figure 19.
- E. The embodiment of figure 20.
- F. The embodiment of figure 21.
- G. The embodiment as illustrated in figure 22, having plural inlets.
- H. The embodiment of figure 23.
- J. The embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 24 wherein the sectional area of the coolant ascending path changes in the axial direction thereof.

3. Applicant is advised that a response to the species restriction requirement must include an identification of the species that it elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a generic claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP 809.02(a).

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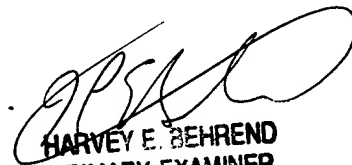
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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 of the other invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Mr. Behrend at telephone number (703) 305-1831.

Behrend/gj-11

2-6-96


HARVEY E. BEHREND
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2200